

**Attachment B – Summary of Public Comments and TVA Responses,
Public Notice, Public Comments, and Correspondence**

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Summary of TVA Public Notice Comments Pertaining to the BRMEMC Proposal and TVA Responses

In Support of Proposal

As a property owner in Towns County on Lake Chatuge, I want to offer some comments regarding the proposed location of a BRMEMC Sub Station on parcel 52. No one wants a sub-station in their back yard, however, we are seeing from our current real estate market downturn that when building stops, so does the mountain economy. Based on information provided by BRMEMC, to continue to grow and to maintain satisfactory power reliability and future growth in this section of Towns County, including lake property, a new sub-station is a necessity. (**Comment by:** *Lamar Paris*)

Please accept my support for BRMEMC's request for 2 acres of the TVA property for construction of a sub-station site. With the increase and growth in our county there is a need for BRMEMC to increase the electrical service in our county. As General Manager of the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds, I have seen a lot of growth for the past several years and we will see continued growth. In order to accommodate the needs for electricity, BRMEMC needs the TVA property for the sub-station. (**Comment by:** *Hilda Thomason*)

TVA Response: Comments noted

Opposed to the Proposal

I could continue, but Please Turn Down this request from BRMEMC and either suggest another site to them or let them purchase a site, either of which should preferably be located in a small "blind" canyon or treed area to hide the sub station from view of motorists and residences. As a former Georgia Tech engineering graduate, who worked on Gemini, Apollo and Skylab for the NASA, I know from experience that trade-off studies and decisions can be difficult. But, Please do a good job of tackling the issues that mitigate heavily against this particular site being chosen for a sub station. - Do your very best for all citizens and let BRMEMC locate this equipment somewhere else more secluded. (**Comment by:** *Wes Lerdon*)

While TCHA understands that a new substation serving the southeast part of Towns County is absolutely necessary and that decisions need to be made in a timely manner, we are unconvinced that rushing into the solution currently on the table without a thorough investigation of potential alternatives is the best thing for the County, the Cooperative or the TVA. We take note of the fact that, because much of the early work on the proposal has been done off line and quietly, it is only recently that the general citizenry have become aware of the proposed citing and its impact. That suggests that we need to slow down and make sure that all potential resolutions are fully explored and all citizen concerns are fully addressed. We encourage TVA to relax and let these efforts proceed to a conclusion and their results be transmitted to you prior to moving further ahead with the decision process.

(**Comment by:** *Towns County Homeowners Association*)

TVA Response: Prior to submitting this request to TVA, BRMEMC evaluated five alternative locations on private property and one alternative location on TVA property. For various reasons such as current owners preferred not to sell property, extensive amount of site preparation or distance from other substations, these

alternative sites did not meet the needs of BRMEMC. BRMEMC chose Parcel 52 as the preferred location because the substation would be located in a commercial area as opposed to a residential neighborhood, near existing transmission lines and near BRMEMC's load center, and would require very little site preparation in order to construct the substation.

EMF Concerns

Reasons for my objection- Power substations emit EMF,(electro magnetic fields), which are known to interact with human tissues and are potentially dangerous. Latest research suggests that pregnant women should never go near a high power transmission line or substation, also those with pace makers or automatic defibrillators. (**Comment by:** *Bob Crawford*)

There is also the concern of the electro magnetic field created by high voltage transformers and power lines. This is dangerous to persons with pacemakers, defibrillators and interferes with hearing aids. (**Comment by:** *Mary Keys*)

TVA Response: In general, the strongest EMFs around the outside of a substation come from the power lines entering and leaving the substation. The strength of the EMFs generated by the equipment inside the substation, such as transformers, reactors, and capacitor banks, decreases very rapidly closer to the fence. Beyond the fence, the EMFs produced by the substation equipment are typically indistinguishable from background levels.

There is the concern of the EMF (electro magnetic field) effect on persons under or near high voltage wires. If a substation and potential park area shared the same parcel of land there could be detrimental affects on those in this area and doubtful that citizens would use the park area. (**Comment by:** *Robert A. Keys*)

TVA Response: The typical voltage for power distribution lines in the project area is from 13 to 25 kilovolts. EMFs directly beneath these overhead distribution lines typically range from 10 to 20 mG for main feeders and less than 10 mG for lateral power lines. Information provided in the EMF section of the EA indicates that the EMF levels produced from a 115-kV transmission line are much less than those produced from operating common household and office equipment.

Floodplains

Then there is the environmental impact of the remaining portion considering BRMEMC would have to bring in fill dirt to raise the elevation for their substation. Can they disturb the land this way? (**Comment by:** *Mary Keys*)

The land elevation places it almost entirely in a flood plain of Lake Chatuge well below the 1933 elevation. (**Comment by:** *Wes Lerdon*)

The hazard of a sub station being engulfed by rising lake water could pose operational and maintenance access difficulties with contingent power interruptions. (**Comment by:** *Wes Lerdon*)

The proposed site is below the 1933 line and very close to highway 76. Although we recognize that filling can elevate the location, fill dirt is never as stable as undisturbed soil and substation equipment is very heavy. (**Comment by:** *Towns County Homeowners Association*)

TVA Response: The applicant evaluated alternative sites and provided documentation to support a determination of “no practicable alternative” to the proposed floodplain development. To minimize adverse impacts, all portions of the substation would be constructed above elevation 1,933.0, which would be 4 feet above the 100-year flood elevation at this location. About 0.2 acre-foot of fill material would be placed within the flood control storage zone in order to elevate all portions of the substation above the 500-year flood elevation 1,931.0. The applicant has provided information documenting the need for the placement of fill material. The amount of displaced flood control storage has been minimized while achieving the project objective.

Land Use

I suggest BRMEMC find a more acceptable location. I have heard that a 2 acre site behind the Mohawk plant might be available. (**Comment by:** *Bob Crawford*)

There must be other lands EMC can obtain. They only want this parcel because it is easy access for their people without concern for the beauty of that property. Let them buy property elsewhere at fair market value. TVA should provide this property to Towns County for their development to be used by the citizens of the county. (**Comment by:** *Mary Keys*)

As a concerned citizen of Towns County, GA I am greatly opposed to BRMEMC using any portion of Land Parcel #52 for a substation. Please don't mar the lake with any more substations. There are other places that the substations could be placed. (**Comment by:** *Wes Lerdon*)

TVA Response: Prior to submitting this request to TVA, BRMEMC evaluated five alternative locations on private property and one other alternative location on TVA property. For various reasons, such as current owners preferred not to sell property, extensive amount of site preparation, or distance from other substations, these alternative sites did not meet the needs of BRMEMC. BRMEMC chose Parcel 52 as the preferred location because the substation would be located in a commercial area as opposed to a residential neighborhood, near existing transmission lines and near BRMEMC's load center, and would require very little site preparation in order to construct the substation.

This lake front property is far too valuable as a County park or other similar use available to the general public. Installation of an electric sub station would eliminate or at least deteriorate that possibility for the County. In addition it would present an eyesore on Hwy 76 a main thoroughfare for tourist travelers coming into the city. Surely there is other property in the area more secluded that would serve the BRMEMC requirement. (**Comment by:** *Don Washburn*)

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substations. There are other places that the substations could be placed. (**Comment by:** *Hilda T. McGriff*)

TVA Response: The construction of a substation and new transmission line on Parcel 52 would not conflict with existing or future potential recreational use on the remainder of the parcel. The substation and new transmission line would be seen in the foreground by area residents and motorists along U.S. Highway 76. However, a vegetative screen of mixed evergreen and deciduous trees and evergreen shrub species would be planted at a 25-foot-minimum width around all sides of the substation. An 8-foot-high chain link fence with dark green vinyl slats would be constructed surrounding the substation.

Parcel 52 is an undeveloped but prime lake front property. It has no business being used for a heavy commercial application when it is more suited for recreational purposes or residential development focused on the lake. (**Comment by:** *Towns County Homeowners Association*)

The land would probably market at several million dollars for lakefront residential or hotel construction, if the 1933 elevation could be accommodated without forbidden fill dirt washing into the lake? (**Comment by:** *Wes Lerdon*)

TVA Response: TVA Land Policy does not allow land to be sold for residential use. However, the TVA Land Policy does allow for lands to be made available for public infrastructure including public power distribution purposes. The construction of a substation and new transmission line would not preclude other potential land uses for the remainder of the parcel, provided the uses are allowable under TVA policies and guidelines.

To date, BRMEMC has embraced our proposal for the exploration of alternatives and has agreed that, if an alternative site can be found and obtained, to consider such positively even to the extent of incurring additional cost, if not unreasonable. While this effort is underway it will take time. BRMEMC emphasizes the need to move ahead but the issue is important enough to the future of the county to require whatever time it takes to do it right. As of this writing, we have identified several potential parcels further to the south and we are, with the help of Commissioner Kendall, exploring their utility and availability. (**Comment by:** *Towns County Homeowners Association*)

In summary, TCHA advances a recommended use for this property which is the most appropriate. We are also working hard to help the BRMEMC find a location which they can live with and which will further the desire of the County to preserve and maintain the mountain charm of our community. We enlist the support of the TVA in achieving this goal. (**Comment by:** *Towns County Homeowners Association*)

TVA Response: Prior to submitting this request to TVA, BRMEMC evaluated five alternative locations on private property and one other alternative location on TVA property. For various reasons, such as current owners preferred not to sell property, extensive amount of site preparation, or distance from other substations, these alternative sites did not meet the needs of BRMEMC. BRMEMC chose Parcel 52 as the preferred location because the substation would be located in a commercial area as opposed to a residential neighborhood, near existing

transmission lines and near BRMEMC's load center, and would require very little site preparation in order to construct the substation.

When all options are considered, this would appear to be one of the best solutions to a difficult issue. The cost savings to BRMEMC from this site compared to others will be significant and a savings that will ultimately be passed on to rate payers. (**Comment by:** *Lamar Paris*)

TVA Response: Comment noted

Request for Public Hearing

A substantial number of Towns County citizens have contacted my office with concerns and questions regarding the electrical power sub station proposal to be located on TVA property Parcel 52 approximately 2 miles east of Hiawassee. I feel a great majority of citizens are not aware of this proposal and those that are aware of it have concerns and many questions. Therefore, as the elected governing authority of Towns County, I am hereby making a formal request that TVA and the Blue Ridge Mountain EMC hold public hearings on this very important proposal of which will effect the lives of all citizens. I firmly believe governmental agencies at the local, State and Federal level should go to great lengths to enlighten the public on issues and decisions being made that will effect their property and lives. (**Comment by:** *Bill Kendall, Towns County Commissioner*)

TVA Response: An open house-style public meeting will be held by TVA to provide the public an opportunity to come in as their schedule permits to learn about a proposal. Open houses are also used to obtain information from the public about the proposal. This setting is usually informal, and the public may come and go as they please. Because of the informality and availability of staff, there is generally more one-on-one interaction. Furthermore, some people will discuss their concerns more freely without an audience and TVA feels that the open house format is the most equitable way for everyone's comments to be received. Additionally, in TVA's experience, the open house format allows more people to provide comments in an efficient and timely manner. Comments received can provide useful information, which may indicate that an issue needs further investigation or that the analysis did not consider some aspect of potential impacts on a particular resource.

Recreation

This parcel is very well suited for more community minded purposes such as a soccer field and park area for Towns County citizens and children to enjoy waterfront access. (**Comment by:** *Robert A. Keys*)

The TVA maps show the proposed site is intended for "Recreation", certainly not an unsightly sub station or other industrial corporate use. (**Comment by:** *Wes Lerdon*)

However, one of the major advantages to this site is that in addition to the sub-station, we understand that there is a potential for a public park on a portion of this property, which will be a huge asset to this community. (**Comment by:** *Lamar Paris*)

We are further opposed to the proposed deal whereby BRMEMC would develop the remainder of parcel 52 into a park for the City of Hiawassee (see below). As a consumer

financed public utility, BRMEMC has no business spending utility funds on improvements to public property. In addition, the locating of a park where children and adults will play and relax next to a large electrical power substation invites unnecessary potential safety issues. **(Comment by: Towns County Homeowners Association)**

The TCHA also opposes the leasing of this parcel or any part thereof to the City of Hiawasse for a public park and boat ramp for the following reasons: The property is not within the city limits. The City already has a piece of property on the lake about one half mile north of this parcel which they have attempted to develop with poor results and which is largely unused. **(Comment by: Towns County Homeowners Association)**

If the City has money for a park, then they should first consider spending it to upgrade the park on the City Square before starting another project and leaving two others unfinished. The TCHA is strongly opposed to any new boat ramps or extension of existing ones until effective policing and watercraft use management is established on Lake Chatuge. This subject will be fully addressed in our formal response to the Land management Study later this summer and has already been brought to the attention of the Authority in the letter mentioned in the first paragraph above. **(Comment by: Towns County Homeowners Association)**

As an appropriate use for this property the TCHA endorses and encourages the TVA to lease this parcel to Towns County for use as an unlighted soccer field for the youth of the county. Today, the county youth soccer teams must share temporary fields with other youth sports, i.e. baseball and softball. There is no dedicated youth soccer field and those that are available are fully used by the high school and the college. The county has been searching for a piece of property for this use for several years without success. This property is uniquely suited to the soccer field use and the request has the endorsement of Commissioner Kendall. The objection to late night play will be handled by leaving the field unlighted. The property can be made soccer ready with minimum grading and fencing plus the installation of suitable parking for which there is ample room. **(Comment by: Towns County Homeowners Association)**

TVA Response: The construction of a substation and new transmission line on Parcel 52 would not conflict with existing or future potential recreational use on the remainder of the parcel. The Mountain Reservoirs Land Management Plan for the nine mountain reservoirs is currently under development, and several land use allocations for Parcel 52 are being considered. The purpose of the land planning process is to allocate TVA parcels to a type of land use. Currently, Parcel 52 is managed for uses consistent with Natural Resource Conservation, such as agriculture and dispersed recreational use (primarily bank fishing). Alternatively, Parcel 52 is also suitable for and capable of Developed Recreation. The public has an opportunity to provide input to TVA as to the most appropriate land use for the remainder of Parcel 52. The TVA Land Policy states that TVA leases or easements for commercial recreation purposes shall limit the use primarily to water-based recreation designed to enhance the recreation potential of the natural resources of the river and be a stimulus for regional economic development. The construction of the proposed substation and transmission line would not preclude or significantly impact potential recreational uses that would otherwise be considered by TVA on Parcel 52.

Socioeconomics

The proposed site is immediately adjacent to the Palmer property including a store and trailer village and across the road from several businesses all of whom have been in their present locations for a long time. These businesses will be adversely impacted by the suggested location and their owners are expressing their concern. (**Comment by:** *Towns County Homeowners Association*)

The residential properties across this narrow part of the lake could be devalued and property tax dollars lost forever to Towns County with resultant devalued resale for the homeowners and possible successful litigation for homeowners to be compensated for their loss of property values. (No, I do not live anywhere near the adversely affected area.) (**Comment by:** *Wes Lerdon*)

TVA Response: The construction of the proposed substation and related transmission line would have a small temporary positive impact on employment and income in the county. Once completed, the local area would continue to have a reliable and adequate supply of electricity for some time, allowing the economy to continue to grow. No significant impact on property values is likely, although a temporary, short-term impact could occur until the public becomes accustomed to the presence of the substation and transmission line. Vegetative screening and lighting requirements, as discussed in the subsection on Visual Resources, would contribute to avoiding any significant impact to property values. In addition, the location of the substation in a commercial area would avoid intruding directly on residential areas, decreasing any likelihood of impacts on property values.

Visual Impacts

Locations near personal residences causes a much more sever impact than the proposed site. Even though it is along the lake and adjacent to Hwy 76, if you compare it to another sub station located on the West side of Hiawassee and along the lake, the visual impact is very minimal. There is no residence next door and the main power line right-of-ways already exist, therefore, the potential for site 52 to be the least disruptive site should be obvious. (**Comment by:** *Lamar Paris*)

Location- Parcal52, across from Parker Oil Co is one of the most beautiful areas on Lake Chatuge. A power substation would diversely affect the aesthetics of this area. The substation would require the routing of high voltage transmission lines which carry voltages of 35,000 to 65000 or even higher through or around Hiawassee. These transmission lines would require those hugh metal poles that run along US 64 coming in to Hayesville, recently installed. (**Comment by:** *Bob Crawford*)

This is a beautiful piece of land worth of something other than an ugly substation on the major highway leading into Hiawassee from the East. We already have two ugly substations on the same highway to look at and they do nothing for the beauty of the area. I believe if BRMEMC did get the acreage they desire it will render the remaining portion of this parcel unusable. Who would want a park, business, etc located next to a high voltage area with large power lines running to and fro. (**Comment by:** *Mary Keys*)

This parcel is prime waterfront property and a substation will totally destroy the aesthetics of that piece of land. This property is visible to all visitors coming into Towns County from the East (Helen and Clayton) and is one of the first pieces of lakefront property County

visitors see. All one has to know how this is true is see the ugly substations already in existence on Highway 76 in Young Harris, Hiawassee across from Papa's Pizza (and this one is on the waterfront as well) and the new substation in Hayesville. BRMEMC has done nothing to improve the aesthetics of the areas around these substations. (**Comment by:** *Robert A. Keys*)

A sub station, with all attendant unsightliness, would create an eyesore at the eastern approach to Hiawassee comparable to an unfenced junk yard or oil drilling rig. (**Comment by:** *Wes Lerdon*)

I have live in this area 46 years and have seen the growth impact. In order for our store(Hiawassee Hardware) to continue selling building supplies our local EMC must be able to provide proper utilities. I have heard there is a need for a new substation to provide the Hightower area with power. The proposed property is now used by fishermen, however the shoreline is not kept up. It would be my hope if a substation goes in there a TVA groundskeepers would be assigned to the area and it could be more attractive as you pass by on your way to enter into the city limits. Perhaps a park could be incorporated to utilize this beautiful piece of lakefront property and landscape the substation accordingly. (**Comment by:** *Brenda McKinney, Secretary/Treasurer, Hiawassee Hardware & Building Supply, Inc.*)

Further, substations, being of their nature aesthetically degrading and potentially dangerous, should be located away from area of heavy use either by traffic or personnel. (**Comment by:** *Towns County Homeowners Association*)

BRMEMC in the few public discussions they have had, have never highlighted the fact of the requirement for the high voltage power lines which are required to service the substation. These lines are presently planned to come through downtown Hiawassee on large power poles which will add nothing to the ambience of the town nor will they be easily located on the existing paths. TCHA recognizes that any location may require this approach but moving the substation further south would allow the option of running the distribution lines down SR 288. In no condition, would the TCHA support the running of the power lines across the lake and we think that BRMEMC agrees with this. (**Comment by:** *Towns County Homeowners Association*)

Selfishly, this is where we live and the area we call home. Each time we turn down Shakerag Road and each time we exit our home from Shakerag onto Hwy 76 we would see the eyesore of a substation in one of the most pristine, pure areas of North Georgia. This would totally ruin that feeling. Also, the business' that are located right around there would be impacted by the unsightly view of the substation if it were to be located there. Also, for residents and visitors to Hiawassee coming from the East and South one of their first views on coming into the region are the beautiful shores of Lake Chatuge only to immediately be met with a substation just before the city limits of Hiawassee. Not that I am commenting that there isn't a need for another substation, but there has to be a better place to locate this new substation besides Parcel 52. Please reconsider this proposal and find a location that is not as highly visible to not only residents and business owners in this immediate area, but also visitors coming into Hiawassee. (**Comment by:** *Robert B. Blaha*)

TVA Response: The substation and new transmission line would be seen in the foreground by area residents and motorists along U.S. Highway 76. However, a vegetative screen of mixed evergreen and deciduous tree and evergreen shrub

species would be planted at a 25-foot-minimum width around all sides of the substation. An 8-foot-high chain link fence with dark green vinyl slats would be constructed surrounding the substation. BRMEMC has stated the substation would be locked at all times, unless employees are working inside the station.

Public Notice

April 29, 2008

Proposed action

Sale of TVA Property

Location

Chatuge Reservoir, Hiwassee River, Towns County,
Georgia

Description

Blue Ridge Mountain Electric Membership Cooperative (BRMEMC) has submitted a request for approximately 2 acres of TVA property for construction of a substation site and a small portion of a transmission line right-of-way.

The requested property is located on Chatuge Reservoir, Hiwassee River, Towns County, Georgia, and is located along U.S. Highway 76 just south of the city limits of Hiwassee, Georgia. (See [vicinity](#) and [exhibit](#) map.) The requested property is known as Parcel 52 in the Draft Mountain Reservoirs Land Management Plan.

Construction of the substation and associated transmission line is needed by BRMEMC to handle increasing demand for electrical service in the area. If approved, TVA would be compensated for the fair market value of the property.

TVA is interested in receiving comments on the potential of the proposed action to affect the environment, historic properties and to identify any other issues associated with this proposal. These comments will be used in reaching a decision concerning the proposed action. Please note that any comments received, including names and addresses, will become part of the administrative record and will be available for public inspection.

[Exhibit Map](#)

[Vicinity Map](#)

All written comments on this proposed action must be received on or before June 1, 2008, and should be directed

to:

Dan Fisher, TVA
1101 Market Street (PSC 1E-C)
Chattanooga, TN 37402-2801
(423) 876-4177
Fax (423) 876-4016
E-mail: dfisher@tva.gov

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Tennessee Valley Authority, 400 West Summit Hill Drive, Knoxville, Tennessee 37902-1499

May 20, 2008

Commissioner Noel Holcomb
State Historic Preservation Officer
Department of Natural Resources
34 Peachtree Street, NW, Suite 1600
Atlanta, Georgia 30303-2316

Dear Commissioner Holcomb:

TVA, LAND USE PERMIT, MACEDONIA SUBSTATION, TOWNS COUNTY, GEORGIA

The Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) proposes to grant a land use permit to Blue Ridge Mountain Electric Membership Cooperative for the construction of a substation and a 500-foot transmission line (TL) right-of-way (ROW) on a portion of TVA fee-owned land. The TVA fee-owned land (Tract CHR-414) is located on a river terrace overlooking Chatuge Reservoir at Hiwassee River Mile 129.9 in Towns County, Georgia. The permit would grant an easement for the 500-foot TL ROW, and TVA would sell the 1.5-acre footprint required for the substation (Figure 1). The 500-foot ROW would cross U.S. Highway 76 and connect with an existing TL ROW running to the Woodsgrove substation near Friendship, Georgia.

TVA determined the archaeological area of potential effect (APE) to be the 1.5-acre substation footprint and 500-foot long by 20-foot wide TL ROW. In addition, TVA determined the historical/architectural APE to be any areas visible within a half-mile radius of the archaeological APE.

TVA contracted with TRC, Inc. (TRC) to conduct a cultural resource survey of both the archaeological and historical/architectural APE. Archival research conducted by TRC indicated one previously recorded archaeological site, 9TO204, and one historic structure, Survey #39, occur within the APE. Site 9TO204, recorded by New South Associates, Inc. in 1998 during a shoreline survey, was recommended ineligible for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). Survey #39 was identified during a comprehensive Towns County survey in 1977 but was subsequently demolished. Following the archival research, TRC conducted the Phase I cultural resources survey of the APE on April 22-24, 2008. Please find enclosed two copies of the draft report titled, *Cultural Resource Survey for the Proposed Macedonia Substation and Transmission Line in Towns County, Georgia*.

The archaeological survey resulted in the relocation of site 9TO204, and no new archaeological sites were identified within the APE. TRC concurs with New South Associates, Inc. recommendation that Site 9TO204 is ineligible for the NRHP. No further archaeological work is recommended.

Commissioner Noel Holcomb
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The historical/architectural survey resulted in the identification of 18 resources. TRC recommended historical/architectural resources HR-1, HR-3 through HR-7, and HR-14 are recommended ineligible for the NRHP. TRC recommended historical/architectural resources HR-2, HR-8 through HR-13, and HR-15 through HR-18 as eligible for the NRHP. TRC determined that the project would have a visual effect on the eleven eligible resources but that the effect will not be adverse due to partial vegetation screening and/or extant modern construction in the vicinity.

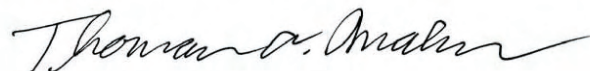
TVA is consulting with the following federally recognized Indian tribes regarding properties within the proposed project's APE that may be of religious and cultural significance to them and eligible for the NRHP: the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, the United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians in Oklahoma, Cherokee Nation, the Muscogee (Creek) Nation of Oklahoma, Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas, Alabama-Quassarte Tribal Town, Kialegee Tribal Town, Thlopthlocco Tribal Town, The Chickasaw Nation, Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, Jena Band of Choctaw Indians, Shawnee Tribe, Eastern Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma, Absentee Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma, and the Seminole Tribe of Florida.

TVA has reviewed the enclosed report and agrees with the findings and recommendations of the authors. Pursuant to 36 CFR 800, we are seeking your concurrence with TVA's findings and determinations regarding the following:

- The archaeological APE consists of the 1.5-acre substation footprint and 500-foot long TL ROW;
- The historical/architectural APE consists of areas within and visible from one-half mile of the archaeological APE;
- Archaeological site 9TO204 and historic/architectural resources HR-1, HR-3 through HR-7, and HR-14 are ineligible for the NRHP;
- Historical/architectural resources HR-2, HR-8 through HR-13, and HR-15 through HR-18 are eligible for the NRHP; and
- The project will have no adverse effect to historic properties on or eligible for the NRHP.

Should you have any questions or comments, please contact Ted Wells at 865/632-2259 or ewwells@tva.gov.

Sincerely,



Thomas O. Maher, Ph.D.
Manager
Cultural Resources

EWV:IKS
Enclosures
cc: EDMS, WT 11D-K



Tennessee Valley Authority, 400 West Summit Hill Drive, Knoxville, Tennessee 37902-1499

May 20, 2008

To those listed:

TVA, LAND USE PERMIT, MACEDONIA SUBSTATION, TOWNS COUNTY, GEORGIA

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resources HR-2, HR-8 through HR-13, and HR-15 through HR-18 as eligible for the NRHP. TRC determined that the project would have a visual effect on the eleven eligible resources but that the effect will not be adverse due to partial vegetation screening and/or extant modern construction in the vicinity.

TVA is consulting with the following federally recognized Indian tribes regarding properties within the proposed project's APE that may be of religious and cultural significance to them and eligible for the NRHP: the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, the United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians in Oklahoma, Cherokee Nation, the Muscogee (Creek) Nation of Oklahoma, Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas, Alabama-Quassarte Tribal Town, Kialegee Tribal Town, Thlopthlocco Tribal Town, The Chickasaw Nation, Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, Jena Band of Choctaw Indians, Shawnee Tribe, Eastern Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma, Absentee Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma, and the Seminole Tribe of Florida.

TVA recommends no further work with regard to archaeological or historic architectural resources for the proposed undertaking. Pursuant to 36 CFR 800, TVA is seeking your comments regarding this undertaking's effect on any historic properties which your tribe attaches religious or cultural significance.

If you have any questions regarding this project, please contact me at pbezzell@tva.gov or at (865) 632-6461 or Ted Wells at ewwells@tva.gov or 865-632-2259.

Sincerely,



Patricia Bernard Ezzell
Historian/Native American Liaison

EWV:PBE:IKS
Enclosure
cc: EDMS, WT 11D-K

IDENTICAL LETTER SENT TO:

Dr. Richard Allen
Policy Analyst
Cherokee Nation
Post Office Box 948
Tahlequah, Oklahoma 74465

Ms. Augustine Asbury
Cultural Preservation Coordinator
Alabama-Quassarte Tribal Town
Post Office Box 187
Wetumka, Oklahoma 74883

Ms. Joyce Bear
Historic Preservation Officer
Muscogee (Creek) Nation of Oklahoma
Post Office Box 580
Okmulgee, Oklahoma 74447

Ms. Lillie Berryman
Environmental Director
Jena Band of Choctaw Indians
Post Office Box 14
Jena, Louisiana 71342

Mr. Bryant Celestine
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas
571 State Park Rd. 56
Livingston, Texas 77351

Mr. Terry Cole
Cultural Resources Director
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma
Post Office Drawer 1210
Durant, Oklahoma 74702

cc: Ms. Caren Johnson
Cultural Resources Office
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma
Post Office Drawer 1210
Durant, Oklahoma 74702

cc: Chief Gregory E. Pyle
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma
Post Office Drawer 1210
Durant, Oklahoma 74702

Mr. Charles Coleman
NAGPRA Representative
Thlopthlocco Tribal Town
Route 1, Box 190-A
Weleetka, Oklahoma 74880

Ms. Robin DuShane
Cultural Preservation Director
Eastern Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma
127 West Oneida
Seneca, Missouri 64865

Mr. Tyler Howe
Historic Preservation Specialist
Eastern Band of the Cherokee Indians
Post Office Box 455
Cherokee, North Carolina 28719

cc: Mr. Russ Townsend
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
Eastern Band of the Cherokee Indians
Post Office Box 455
Cherokee, North Carolina 28719

Ms. Karen Kaniatobe
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
Absentee Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma
2025 S. Gordon Cooper
Shawnee, Oklahoma 74801

Mrs. Jemmie Lillard
Tribal Town King
Kialegee tribal Town
Post Office Box 332
Wetumka, Oklahoma 74883

Ms. Virginia (Gingy) Nail
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
The Chickasaw Nation
Cultural Resources Department
Post Office Box 1548
Ada, Oklahoma 74821

Mr. Kirk Perry
Administrator of Policy and Standards
Cultural Resources
The Chickasaw Nation
Cultural Resources Department
Post Office Box 1548
Ada, Oklahoma 74821

Dr. Marion F. Smith
Compliance Review Supervisor
Seminole Tribe of Florida
Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum
HC-61, Box 21-A
Clewiston, Florida 33440

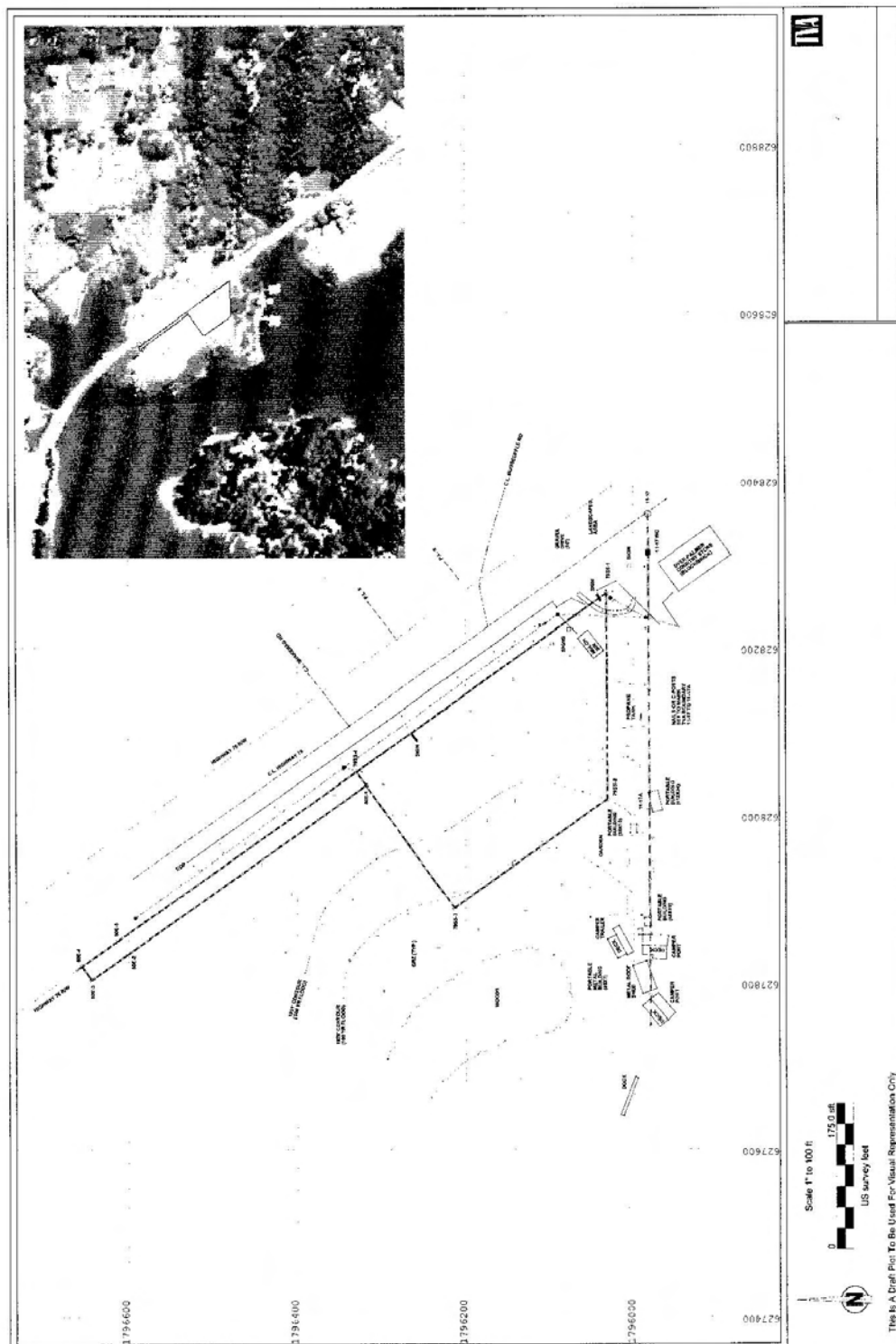
cc: Mr. Willard Steele
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
Seminole Tribe of Florida
Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum
HC-61, Box 21-A
Clewiston, Florida 33440

Mr. Ron Sparkman
Chairman
Shawnee Tribe
Post Office Box 189
Miami, Oklahoma 74355

cc: Ms. Belinda Pryor
Assistant Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
Shawnee Tribe
Post Office Box 189
Miami, Oklahoma 74355

Ms. Lisa Stopp
Interim Director, Language, History and Culture &
Acting Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
United Keetoowah Band
of Cherokee Indians in Oklahoma
Post Office Box 746
Tahlequah, Oklahoma 74464

Chief Glenna J. Wallace
Eastern Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma
127 West Oneida
Seneca, Missouri 64865



McGee, Heather Leanne

From: Bob Crawford [bcrawf@alltel.net]
Sent: Sunday, May 04, 2008 3:28 PM
To: Fisher, Daniel C
Cc: Towns Sentinental; Towns County Herald
Subject: TVA Request for 2 Acre Substation

I object to BRMEMC's proposed location of a substation for the following reasons:

Location- Parcel 52, across from Parker Oil Co is one of the most beautiful areas on Lake Chatuge. A power substation would diversely affect the aesthetics of this area.

Reasons for my objection- Power substations emit EMF, (electro magnetic fields), which are known to interact with human tissues and are potentially dangerous. Latest research suggests that pregnant women should never go near a high power transmission line or substation, also those with pace makers or automatic defibrillators.

The substation would require the routing of high voltage transmission lines which carry voltages of 35,000 to 65,000 or even higher through or around Hiawassee. These transmission lines would require those high metal poles that run along US 64 coming in to Hayesville, recently installed.

I suggest BRMEMC find a more acceptable location. I have heard that a 2 acre site behind the Mohawk plant might be available.

I thank you for your consideration.

Bob Crawford
515 Sequoia Dr.
Hiawassee, Ga.

06/19/2008

McGee, Heather Leanne

From: Bob Keys [rakmlk@alltel.net]
Sent: Monday, May 26, 2008 1:36 PM
To: Fisher, Daniel C
Cc: Towns County Herald; Towns Sentinel
Subject: Fw: BRMEMC/TVA Land Parce #52

----- Original Message -----

From: [Bob Keys](#)
To: dcfisher@tva.gov
Cc: [Towns County Herald](#) ; [Towns Sentinel](#)
Sent: Monday, May 26, 2008 2:27 PM
Subject: BRMEMC/TVA Land Parce #52

Dear Mr. Fisher,

As a concerned citizen of Towns County, Georgia I am greatly opposed to BRMEMC using any portion of Land Parcel #52 for a substaion. The reasons for my opposition are as given as follows:

- This parcel is prime waterfront property and a substation will totally destroy the aesthetics of that piece of land. This property is visible to all visitors coming into Towns County from the East (Helen and Clayton) and is one of the first pieces of lakefront property County visitors see. All one has to know how this is true is see the ugly substations already in existence on Highway 76 in Young Harris, Hiawassee across from Papa's Pizza (and this one is on the waterfront as well) and the new substation in Hayesville. BRMEMC has done nothing to improve the aesthetics of the areas around these substations.
- This parcel is very well suited for more community minded purposes such as a soccer field and park area for Towns County citizens and children to enjoy waterfront access.
- There is the concern of the EMF (electro magnetic field) effect on persons under or near high voltage wires. If a substation and potential park area shared the same parcel of land there could be detrimental affects on those in this area and doubtful that citizens would use the park area.

I trust there is sufficient cause for not approving this parcel for BRMEMC use.

Yours truly,
Robert A. Keys
2949 Lookout Drive
Hiawassee, GA 30546
706-896-7410

06/19/2008

McGee, Heather Leanne

From: Don Washburn [flag@brmemc.net]
Sent: Tuesday, May 27, 2008 4:01 PM
To: Fisher, Daniel C
Subject: fyl from tva

Mr. Fisher, my recommendation is that you decline the request of BRMEMC for a two acre portion of the property known as parcel 52 in the Draft Mountain Reservoirs Land Management Plan, just south of Hiawassee on US Highway 76. This lake front property is far too valuable as a County park or other similar use available to the general public. Installation of an electric sub station would eliminate or at least deteriorate that possibility for the County. In addition it would present an eyesore on Hwy 76 a main thoroughfare for tourist travelers coming into the city.

Surely there is other property in the area more secluded that would serve the BRMEMC requirement.

Don Washburn
5674 Primrose Lane
Young Harris GA 30582
706 379 2459

06/19/2008

McGee, Heather Leanne

From: Bob Keys [rakmlk@alltel.net]
Sent: Wednesday, May 28, 2008 1:17 PM
To: Fisher, Daniel C
Subject: Land Parcel 52 on Chatuge Reservoir

Dear Mr. Fisher,

I am opposed to BRMEMC obtaining any part of the subject land parcel.

This is a beautiful piece of land worth of something other than an ugly substation on the major highway leading into Hiawassee from the East. We already have two ugly substations on the same highway to look at and they do nothing for the beauty of the area. I believe if BRMEMC did get the acreage they desire it will render the remaining portion of this parcel unusable. Who would want a park, business, etc located next to a high voltage area with large power lines running to and fro.

Then there is the environmental impact of the remaining portion considering BRMEMC would have to bring in fill dirt to raise the elevation for their substation. Can they disturb the land this way?

There must be other lands EMC can obtain. They only want this parcel because it is easy access for their people without concern for the beauty of that property. Let them buy property elsewhere at fair market value. TVA should provide this property to Towns County for their development to be used by the citizens of the county.

There is also the concern of the electro magnetic field created by high voltage transformers and power lines. This is dangerous to persons with pacemakers, defibrillators and interferes with hearing aids.

I am not opposed to BRMEMC expanding needed service to the east part of Towns County. Just don't let them use this parcel.

Thank You,

Mary Keys
2949 Lookout Drive
Hiawassee, GA 30546
706-896-7410

06/19/2008

McGee, Heather Leanne

From: Roy & Hilda [themcgriffs@alltel.net]
Sent: Thursday, May 29, 2008 10:25 AM
To: Fisher, Daniel C
Subject: BRMEMC/TVA Land Parcel #52

Dear Mr. Fisher,

As a concerned citizen of Towns County, GA I am greatly opposed to BRMEMC using any portion of Land Parcel #52 for a substation. Please don't mar the lake with any more substations. There are other places that the substations could be placed.

Yours truly,
Hilda T. McGriff
1221 Chatuge Circle
Hiawassee, GA 30546

06/19/2008

McGee, Heather Leanne

From: Brenda [hiawhdwe@alltel.net]
Sent: Thursday, May 29, 2008 2:46 PM
To: Fisher, Daniel C
Subject: tract 52 Lake Chatuge Substation

May 29, 2008

To Whom It May Concern,

I have live in this area 46 years and have seen the growth impact. In order for our store(Hiawassee Hardware) to continue selling building supplies our local EMC must be able to provide proper utilities. I have heard there is a need for a new substation to provide the Hightower area with power. The proposed property is now used by fishermen, however the shoreline is not kept up. It would be my hope if a substation goes in there a TVA groundskeepers would be assigned to the area and it could be more attractive as you pass by on your way to enter into the city limits. Perhaps a park could be incorporated to utilize this beautiful piece of lakefront property and landscape the substation accordingly.

Sincerely,
Brenda McKinney
Secretary/Treasurer
Hiawassee Hardware & Building Supply, Inc.

06/19/2008

McGee, Heather Leanne

From: Dinah Paris [dparis@alltel.net]
Sent: Friday, May 30, 2008 6:07 AM
To: Fisher, Daniel C
Subject: Comments on Lake Chatuge Project parcel 52

Dear Mr. Fisher,

As a property owner in Towns County on Lake Chatuge, I want to offer some comments regarding the proposed location of a BRMEMC Sub Station on parcel 52. No one wants a sub-station in their back yard, however, we are seeing from our current real estate market downturn that when building stops, so does the mountain economy. Based on information provided by BRMEMC, to continue to grow and to maintain satisfactory power reliability and future growth in this section of Towns County, including lake property, a new sub-station is a necessity.

Locations near personal residences causes a much more severe impact than the proposed site. Even though it is along the lake and adjacent to Hwy 76, if you compare it to another sub station located on the West side of Hiawassee and along the lake, the visual impact is very minimal. There is no residence next door and the main power line right-of-ways already exist, therefore, the potential for site 52 to be the least disruptive site should be obvious.

However, one of the major advantages to this site is that in addition to the sub-station, we understand that there is a potential for a public park on a portion of this property, which will be a huge asset to this community.

When all options are considered, this would appear to be one of the best solutions to a difficult issue. The cost savings to BRMEMC from this site compared to others will be significant and a savings that will ultimately be passed on to rate payers.

Thank you for accepting these comments.

Lamar Paris

06/19/2008

McGee, Heather Leanne

From: Hilda Thomason [hthomason@georgiamountainfair.info]

Sent: Friday, May 30, 2008 11:16 AM

To: Fisher, Daniel C

Subject: EMC Request for TVA Property

Dear Dan,
Please accept my support for BRMEMC's request for 2 acres of the TVA property for construction of a sub-station site.

With the increase and growth in our county there is a need for BRMEMC to increase the electrical service in our county.

As General Manager of the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds, I have seen alot of growth for the past several years and we will see continued growth. In order to accomodate the needs for electricity, BRMEMC needs the TVA property for the sub-station.

Hilda Thomason
General Manager
Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds

06/19/2008

McGee, Heather Leanne

From: Wes Lerdon [wesley2@brmemc.net]

Sent: Friday, May 30, 2008 9:21 PM

To: Fisher, Daniel C

Subject: Suggest another site for proposed BRMEMC Sub Station east of Hiawassee

I have visited and walked the site and offer my following objective reasons for asking the TVA to not allow a sub station to be built on the lakefront site, opposite Parker Oil, and east of Hiawassee !!

1. The land elevation places it almost entirely in a flood plain of Lake Chatuge well below the 1933 elevation.
2. The TVA maps show the proposed site is intended for "Recreation", certainly Not an unsightly sub station or other industrial corporate use.
3. The land would probably market at several million dollars for lakefront residential or hotel construction, if the 1933 elevation could be accommodated without forbidden fill dirt washing into the lake ?
4. The hazard of a sub station being engulfed by rising lake water could pose operational and maintenance access difficulties with contingent power interruptions.
5. A sub station, with all attendant unsightliness, would create an eyesore at the eastern approach to Hiawassee comparable to an unfenced junk yard or oil drilling rig.
6. The residential properties across this narrow part of the lake could be devalued and property tax dollars lost forever to Towns County with resultant devalued resale for the homeowners and possible successful litigation for homeowners to be compensated for their loss of property values. (No, I do not live anywhere near the adversely affected area.)

I could continue, but Please Turn Down this request from BRMEMC and either suggest another site to them or let them purchase a site, either of which should preferably be located in a small "blind" canyon or treed area to hide the sub station from view of motorists and residences.

As a former Georgia Tech engineering graduate, who worked on Gemini, Apollo and Skylab for the NASA, I know from experience that trade-off studies and decisions can be difficult. But, Please do a good job of tackling the issues that mitigate heavily against this particular site being chosen for a sub station. - Do your very best for all citizens and let BRMEMC locate this equipment somewhere else more secluded.

Thank you very much for your efforts in our citizens behalf.

My sincere thanks, Wes Lerdon, Col USAF Retired

06/19/2008

**BILL KENDALL
TOWNS COUNTY COMMISSIONER**

48 RIVER STREET
SUITE B
HIAWASSEE, GEORGIA 30546
Telephone: 706 896-2276
Fax: 706 896-4628

May 30, 2008

Transmitted via E-mail
Mr. Dan Fisher
TVA Chickamauga-Hiwassee Watershed Team
1101 Market Street PSC IE
Chattanooga, TN 37402-2801

RE: Request for Public Hearing on Sub-Station on TVA Parcel 52

Dear Mr. Fisher:

A substantial number of Towns County citizens have contacted my office with concerns and questions regarding the electrical power sub station proposal to be located on TVA property Parcel 52 approximately 2 miles east of Hiawassee.

I feel a great majority of citizens are not aware of this proposal and those that are aware of it have concerns and many questions. Therefore, as the elected governing authority of Towns County, I am hereby making a formal request that TVA and the Blue Ridge Mountain EMC hold public hearings on this very important proposal of which will effect the lives of all citizens.

I firmly believe governmental agencies at the local, State and Federal level should go to great lengths to enlighten the public on issues and decisions being made that will effect their property and lives.

Thank you for your consideration on this request.

With highest regards, I am

Sincerely,

Bill Kendall
Sole Commissioner
Towns County

BK/lh



P. O. Box 455, Hiawassee, Georgia, 30546

Associated HOAs

Friendship
Hidden Valley

31 May 2008

Mr. Dan Fisher
TVA Chickamauga-Hiwassee Watershed Team
1101 Market Street PSC 1E
Chattanooga, TN 37402-2801

Via email: dcfisher@TVA.gov

Subject: Comments in response to the TVA notification about BRMEMC application for 2 Acre tract.

The Towns County Homeowners Association (TCHA) is a countywide group of homeowners in Towns County dedicated to the preservation and improvement of our county and its natural resources. Lake Chatuge and its shoreline is one of the most scenic and valuable of those resources and, as such, we are uniquely sensitive to changes in its environment and use. In dealing with the TVA's on going Land Management study, we have already commented on the lack of watercraft management and policing with a letter submitted to the TVA Murphy office (copy enclosed) and we are preparing a detailed response to be submitted during this summer's open comment period. This comment, although also pertinent to the general study is forwarded in response to your notice of May 15, 2008, Subject: TVA notification about BRMEMC application for 2 Acre tract.

Background Information

Before setting forth our position, TVA should be aware that the TCHA is currently and has been for some time working closely with the Blue Ridge Mountain EMC (BRMEMC) on the subject of the location of the proposed substation. We have met with Joe Satterfield and his staff, with Town County Commissioner Bill Kendall and with many other private citizens of the county who have express interest and concern with the proposed location on parcel 52. We are continuing to work with all concerned to achieve a result that all can live with.

While TCHA understands that a new substation serving the southeast part of Towns County is absolutely necessary and that decisions need to be made in a timely manner, we

are unconvinced that rushing into the solution currently on the table without a thorough investigation of potential alternatives is the best thing for the County, the Cooperative or the TVA. We take note of the fact that, because much of the early work on the proposal has been done off line and quietly, it is only recently that the general citizenry have become aware of the proposed citing and its impact. That suggests that we need to slow down and make sure that all potential resolutions are fully explored and all citizen concerns are fully addressed. We encourage TVA to relax and let these efforts proceed to a conclusion and their results be transmitted to you prior to moving further ahead with the decision process.

The TCHA Positions

The TCHA strongly opposes the location of an electrical substation on Parcel 52 for the following reasons:

1. The proposed site is below the 1933 line and very close to highway 76. Although we recognize that filling can elevate the location, fill dirt is never as stable as undisturbed soil and substation equipment is very heavy. Further, substations, being of their nature aesthetically degrading and potentially dangerous, should be located away from area of heavy use either by traffic or personnel.
2. The proposed site is immediately adjacent to the Palmer property including a store and trailer village and across the road from several businesses all of whom have been in their present locations for a long time. These businesses will be adversely impacted by the suggested location and their owners are expressing their concern.
3. Parcel 52 is an undeveloped but prime lake front property. It has no business being used for a heavy commercial application when it is more suited for recreational purposes or residential development focused on the lake.
4. BRMEMC in the few public discussions they have had, have never highlighted the fact of the requirement for the high voltage power lines which are required to service the substation. These lines are presently planned to come through downtown Hiawassee on large power poles which will add nothing to the ambience of the town nor will they be easily located on the existing paths. TCHA recognizes that any location may require this approach but moving the substation further south would allow the option of running the distribution lines down SR 288. In no condition, would the TCHA support the running of the power lines across the lake and we think that BRMEMC agrees with this.
5. To date, BRMEMC has embraced our proposal for the exploration of alternatives and has agreed that, if an alternative site can be found and obtained, to consider such positively even to the extent of incurring additional cost, if not unreasonable. While this effort is underway it will take time. BRMEMC emphasizes the need to move ahead but the issue is important enough to the future of the county to require

whatever time it takes to do it right. As of this writing, we have identified several potential parcels further to the south and we are, with the help of Commissioner Kendall, exploring their utility and availability.

6. We are further opposed to the proposed deal whereby BRMEMC would develop the remainder of parcel 52 into a park for the City of Hiawasse (see below). As a consumer financed public utility, BRMEMC has no business spending utility funds on improvements to public property. In addition, the locating of a park where children and adults will play and relax next to a large electrical power substation invites unnecessary potential safety issues.

The TCHA also opposes the leasing of this parcel or any part thereof to the City of Hiawasse for a public park and boat ramp for the following reasons:

1. The property is not within the city limits.
2. The City already has a piece of property on the lake about one half mile north of this parcel which they have attempted to develop with poor results and which is largely unused.
3. If the City has money for a park, then they should first consider spending it to upgrade the park on the City Square before starting another project and leaving two others unfinished.
4. The TCHA is strongly opposed to any new boat ramps or extension of existing ones until effective policing and watercraft use management is established on Lake Chatuge. This subject will be fully addressed in our formal response to the Land management Study later this summer and has already been brought to the attention of the Authority in the letter mentioned in the first paragraph above.

As an appropriate use for this property the TCHA endorses and encourages the TVA to lease this parcel to Towns County for use as an unlighted soccer field for the youth of the county.

1. Today, the county youth soccer teams must share temporary fields with other youth sports, i.e. baseball and softball. There is no dedicated youth soccer field and those that are available are fully used by the high school and the college.
2. The county has been searching for a piece of property for this use for several years without success.
3. This property is uniquely suited to the soccer field use and the request has the endorsement of Commissioner Kendall.

4. The objection to late night play will be handled by leaving the field unlighted.
5. The property can be made soccer ready with minimum grading and fencing plus the installation of suitable parking for which there is ample room.

In summary, TCHA advances a recommended use for this property which is the most appropriate. We are also working hard to help the BRMEMC find a location which they can live with and which will further the desire of the County to preserve and maintain the mountain charm of our community. We enlist the support of the TVA in achieving this goal.

Sincerely,

Michael Brock
Member, TCHA Board
Chairman, Substation Issue Committee

Encl.

Ccs:

Mr. Joe Satterfield,
BRMEMC
Mr. Bill Kendall
Commissioner, Towns County
Ms. Barbara Mathis
Mayor, City of Hiawasse



P. O. Box 455, Hiawassee, Georgia, 30546

Associated HOAs

Friendship
Hidden Valley

24 March 2008

Tennessee Valley Authority
221 Old Ranger Road,
Murphy, NC 28906
Attn: Mr. Evan Crews

By email to: ercrows@tva.gov

SUBJECT: Development of Enforcement Procedures for Watercraft Usage on Lake Chatuge

In our review of the initial comments and proposals submitted in round one of the current Chatuge Reservoir Land Management Plan, The Towns County Homeowners Association review team has highlighted the almost absolute lack of any type of enforcement of watercraft rules of operation or boating courtesy on the lake. This results in the existence of significant safety issues, especially on weekends and holidays and also related environmental damage to the lakeshore and the quality of the water. Our initial write up includes the following detail:

“Boat traffic, especially on weekends and holidays, in the coves and creeks has gotten so bad that lakeshore property owners often have a difficult time launching their own boats because of the high wave action. Transient boaters and PWC owners pay little attention to the rules of the road passing close to shore at very high speeds thus making launching, swimming or just sitting on the docks both dangerous and uncomfortable. And with the recent advent of boat-installed boom boxes, the noise level is becoming very annoying.

In addition, renters of pontoon boats and personal watercraft often have never operated either and have no safety training. They have no respect for or knowledge of the 100 ft no-wake law in Georgia nor of other water safety and courtesy rules. Commercial enterprises that lease boats and PWCs should be required to review applicable boating regulations with renters before they take possession of the boat or PWC. Special emphasis should be given to the 100 ft. no-wake zone near docks and anchored boats.

Property owners report that the wakes are so bad at times that you simply cannot stand up or walk safely on their docks. The water quickly becomes extremely muddy and unusable. Boat traffic should be restricted to the center portion of all the narrow creeks and coves with reduced speeds and these should be marked as such.

Two of our members report that they spent over \$500.00 to purchase US Coast Guard approved "NO WAKE" and "SWIM AREA" buoys and properly secured and installed them. The NO WAKE buoy actually helped keep water traffic away from their boat docks. After two years the Georgia Department of Natural Resources made them remove the NO WAKE buoy because "they didn't have the resources to enforce the NO WAKE Law except at bridges". This is a poor excuse to property owners who volunteer to utilize their own resources to assist in the enforcement of laws that improve safety and reduce some sedimentation from shore line erosion! And we have other examples of dock owners placing 'No Wake' signs on their docks and having them also be effective. But that should really not be our job".

This write up is in no way exaggerated. The fact is that there is no water safety or courtesy enforcement on Lake Chatuge, period. We have talked to Sheriff Clinton about creating water born Sheriff's Auxiliary with some enforcement powers and he is considering the suggestion. However, the lake belongs to TVA and the TVA must be the leader in creating and managing a watercraft safety program. You cannot pass this off to DNR and then simply sit back. If DNR cannot or will not step up to the job, then TVA MUST find a replacement who can and will or do it yourselves. This is not something that can wait until someone gets hurt. It needs to be organized and implemented before the new boating season gets underway.

Therefore our recommendations are:

1. TVA should convene in the near term a meeting of all the interested or potentially interested parties to include DNR, Towns and Clay County's law enforcement representatives, the Forest Service and any other appropriate agencies with the following goals:
 - a. To implement a water born police force for operation on Saturdays, Sundays and holidays and periodically during the week and sufficiently capable for policing the entire lake;
 - b. To establish and distribute to all who rent watercraft a 30 minute briefing to renters on the basics of watercraft safety, courtesy and operation with the requirement that the lessors provide their renters with a signed certificate of completion of the above course which they shall be required to have on their persons.
2. TVA should work with DNR to establish a program whereby lakefront and dock owners can obtain and install "No Wake" and "Swim Area" buoys whether or not there are personnel always available to enforce them. A few instances of fines for violations being issued and a little publicity will take care of much of the situation.
3. We take note that 1/3rd of the pollution of Lake Chatuge as identified in the Hiwassee River Watershed Coalition report is caused by siltation. TVA should monitor the lake during high use times to identify those areas of TVA or Forest Service land where significant wake caused erosion is taking place and establish no wake or low speed zones

in those areas. It may be possible to enlist the aid of the Watershed Coalition in this activity.

These recommendations are not long-term issues. They are NOW issues. The TCHA strongly endorses your embracing them and acting quickly on them. We stand ready to assist you in anyway we can.

Sincerely,

(s)
Charles K. Kraus
President

McGee, Heather Leanne

Subject: FW: Comments on Parcel #52 - Lake Chatuge

From: Robert Blaha [mailto:robert.blaha@comcast.net]

Sent: Wednesday, June 11, 2008 9:17 AM

To: TVAINFO

Subject: Comments on Parcel #52 - Lake Chatuge

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing in response to just learning about the proposed substation on Parcel 52 at Lake Chatuge. As a homeowner off Shakerag Road, I firmly am opposed to having a substation being built there at the corners of Hwy 76 and Shakerag Road....from the Parker Oil, Lakeview Convenience Store and down to the shores of Lake Chatuge.

Selfishly, this is where we live and the area we call home. Each time we turn down Shakerag Road and each time we exit our home from Shakerag onto Hwy 76 we would see the eyesore of a substation in one of the most pristine, pure areas of North Georgia. This would totally ruin that feeling.

Also, the business' that are located right around there would be impacted by the unsightly view of the substation if it were to be located there.

Also, for residents and visitors to Hiawassee coming from the East and South one of their first views on coming into the region are the beautiful shores of Lake Chatuge only to immediately be met with a substation just before the city limits of Hiawassee.

Not that I am commenting that there isn't a need for another substation, but there has to be a better place to locate this new substation besides Parcel 52.

Please reconsider this proposal and find a location that is not as highly visible to not only residents and business owners in this immediate area, but also visitors coming into Hiawassee.

Thank you kindly for your attention.

***Robert B. Blaha
172 Buckridge Road
Hiawassee, GA 30546***

06/20/2008

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